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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/849,261	05/20/2004	Yin-Shang Zteng	MR3287-15	7407
4586	7590	06/15/2006	EXAMINER	
ROSENBERG, KLEIN & LEE 3458 ELLICOTT CENTER DRIVE-SUITE 101 ELLICOTT CITY, MD 21043			AU, SCOTT D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2612	

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/849,261

Applicant(s)

ZTENG, YIN-SHANG

Examiner

Scott Au

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 May 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

The application of Ztang for a "Household digital automation control system" filed May 20, 2004 has been examined.

Claims 1-8 are pending.

### ***Drawings***

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show the 31 and 32 as described in the specification in a way that can be understood for examining. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the

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applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Referring to claim 1, nowhere in the specification describe the limitation that “the controller is connected with a fire line a load line with the both ends”. As being supported by paragraph 23, it is not understood the significant of the terms “fire line and load line”. Further explanation is required. This limitation contains new subject matter.

Regarding claims 2-8 are rejected because the claims are dependent upon claim

1.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (US# 6,636,157) in view of Hayes et al. (US# 6,784,804).

Referring to claim 1, Sato discloses a digital household automation control system, the family has electric appliances and controllers (i.e. see Figure 3); meanwhile the controller (2,3,4,5,6,7,and 8) (i.e. electronic appliances) is connected with a power line (i.e. SAR,SV,SAL), wherein said digital household automation control system is comprised of: an input apparatus (i.e. RD, remote device) attached with a transmitting unit emitting RF signal; a relay transmitter (10) (i.e. central controller) including a RF receiving unit and an infrared-ray signal transmitting unit, wherein, the RF receiving unit can receive the RF signal emitted from the remote control, and transfer the RF signal into another one sent to the infrared-ray signal transmitting unit to make it emit an infrared-ray signal to control the various electric appliances or controllers (2,3,4,5,6,7,and 8) (i.e. electronic appliances) (col. 6 lines 22-30); a controller cross-connected with power line, which includes a receiving unit, a central

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processing unit and a controlling unit controlled by the central processing unit, wherein, the receiving unit can receive the RF signal from the input apparatus directly, and send the signal to the central processing unit, therein comparing, analyzing treatment, then to drive the controlling unit to control the controller actions (col. 6 lines 22-40).

However, Sato did not explicitly disclose an input apparatus emitting RF signal in a proper time.

In the same field of endeavor of electronic appliance system, Hayes et al. teach an input apparatus emitting RF signal in a proper time (col. 1 lines 14-31).

One ordinary skill in the art understands that remotely emitting a signal at the particular time of Hayes et al. is desirable in the control electronic appliance of Sato because Sato teaches the remote control (RD) controlling difference appliances through the central controller (10) (col. 6 lines 22-40) and Hayes et al. teach in an electronic system, such as an entertainment system, to be remotely operated, it is advantageous for a remote control to be able to configure itself to match the capabilities of the particular appliance to be controlled at that particular time by the remote control in order to allow the user to view a tv program at a later time (col. 1 lines 14-31).

Referring to claim 2, Sato in view of Hayes et al. disclose the system of claim 1, Sato discloses wherein said relay transmitter also includes an infrared-ray receiving unit and a memory unit connected with the infrared-ray receiving unit, so that the infrared-ray receiving unit can receive the new infrared-ray signals from the remote

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controls of increased electric appliances, and save them into the memory unit (col. 10 lines 35-46).

Referring to claim 3, Sato in view of Hayes et al. disclose the system of claim 1, Sato discloses wherein said input apparatus can be a remote control (col. 6 lines 22-40).

Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (US# 6,636,157) in view of Hayes et al. (US# 6,784,804) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Van der Meulen (US# 6,900,617).

Referring to claim 4, Sato in view of Hayes et al. disclose the system of claim 1. However, Sato in view of Hayes et al. did not explicitly disclose wherein said input apparatus can be a computer.

In the same field of endeavor of home appliance network system, Van der Meulen discloses the input apparatus can be a computer (col. 1 lines 35-47).

One ordinary skill in the art understands that the input apparatus can be a computer of Van der Meulen is desirable in the home electronic appliance system of Sato in view of Hayes et al. because Sato teaches the remote control (RD) controlling difference appliances through the central controller (10) (col. 6 lines 22-40) and Van der Meulen teaches the central control station can be a home computer in order for the user to preprogram light or appliances are on or off at different times (col. 1 lines 35-47).

Referring to claim 5, Sato in view of Hayes et al. and Van der Meulen disclose the system of claim 4, Sato teaches the remote control (RD) controlling difference appliances through the central controller (10) (col. 6 lines 22-40) and Van der Meulen teaches the central control station can be a home computer (col. 1 lines 35-47). Therefore, it is conventional in the art that Sato in view of Van der Meulen disclose wherein said computer is linked into a network adapter so as to control the relay transmitter working via the network.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (US# 6,636,157) in view of Hayes et al. (US# 6,784,804) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Moutaux et al. (US# 6,906,635).

Referring to claim 4, Sato in view of Hayes et al. disclose the system of claim 1. However, Sato in view of Hayes et al. did not explicitly disclose wherein said input apparatus can be a mobile communication unit, thereby controlling the relay transmitter working.

In the same field of endeavor of electronic appliance system, Moutaux et al. teach the input apparatus can be a mobile communication unit (col. 1 line 60 to col. 2 line 3).

One ordinary skill in the art understands that the input apparatus can be a mobile communication unit of Moutaux et al. is desirable in the home electronic appliance



system of Sato in view of Hayes et al. because Sato teaches the remote control (RD) controlling different appliances through the central controller (10) (col. 6 lines 22-40) and Moutaux et al. teach the remote control unit (6) can be a mobile telephone for controlling different home electronic appliances (col. 6 line 65 to col. 7 line 6).

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (US# 6,636,157) in view of Hayes et al. (US# 6,784,804) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Watanabe et al. (US# 6,583,723).

Referring to claim 7, Sato in view of Hayes et al. disclose the system of claim 1. However, Sato in view of Hayes et al. did not explicitly disclose wherein said input apparatus can be a detecting actuator, which can is comprised of a detecting unit triggered by a signal of detecting and receiving any environment change, a central processing unit processing the signals came from the detecting unit, and a transmitting unit emitting the signals coming from the central processing unit to control the relay transmitter action.

In the same field of endeavor of home electronic appliance system, Watanabe et al. disclose wherein said input apparatus can be a detecting actuator, which can is comprised of a detecting unit triggered by a signal of detecting and receiving any environment change, a central processing unit processing the signals came from the detecting unit, and a transmitting

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unit emitting the signals coming from the central processing unit to control the relay transmitter action (col. 1 lines 6-25 and col. 13 lines 42-50).

One ordinary skill in the art understands that the environment changes sensor of Watanabe et al. is desirable in the home appliance system of Sato in view of Hayes et al. because both Sato, Hayes et al. and Watanabe et al. disclose for controlling home electronic appliances and Watanabe et al. teach the sensor 41 for sensing the environmental change in order to carry out a desire command.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Thaler et al. (US# 5,382,947) disclose home electronic appliance system.

Welty (US# 5,109,222) disclose remote control system.

Van Dort et al. (US# 5,537,104) disclose remote control electronic system.

Mullaly et al. (US# 6,570,524) disclose feedback indicating signal to the user of the status of the operation of the appliance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Au whose telephone number is (571) 272-3063. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30AM – 5:00PM.

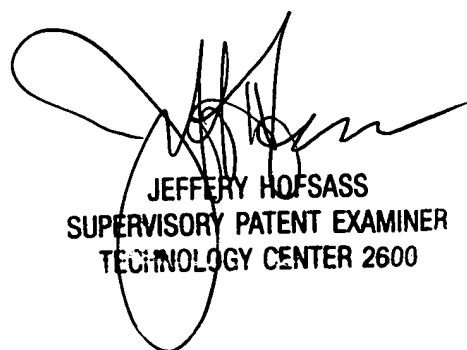
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Hofsass can be reached at (571) 272-2981. The fax phone numbers

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for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571)-272-1817.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-3050.

Scott Au



JEFFERY HOFSSASS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600